

## Community Roundtable Memorandum

### US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

### October 2017

Two community roundtables were held in October 2017. One was held at the Silver Spring Civic Building in downtown Silver Spring and the other was held at the Silver Spring United Methodist Church in Four Corners. Both locations were accessible by transit. A total of 15 community members attended the Community Roundtables. The locations, dates, and times of the Community Roundtables are listed in **Table 1**. This memorandum includes information on how the events were publicized, the purpose of the events, and the results of activities performed at each community roundtables.

*Table 1: October 2017 Community Roundtable Schedule*

Open House Event Location	Date and Time	Participation
Silver Spring Civic Center 1 Veterans Place Silver Spring, MD 20910	Tuesday, October 17, 2017 6:30pm-8:30pm	6 Participants
Silver Spring United Methodist Church - Four Corners Campus, 33 University Boulevard East Silver Spring, MD 20910	Thursday, October 19, 2017 6:30-8:00pm	9 Participants

#### **Publicizing the Events**

The October Community Roundtables gave people living and working along the US 29 BRT corridor an opportunity to discuss existing bicycle, pedestrian and bus service conditions. The project team contacted people who had responded to a digital survey administered during the summer of 2017 and informed them of the opportunity to participate in the Community Roundtables. MCDOT also contacted leaders of local civic organizations and administrators of local listservs to enlist their assistance informing the public about the events.

#### **Meeting Introduction**

Each of the Community Roundtables began with a brief introduction of various aspects of the US 29 BRT project, including the goals, history, and an update on the current phase. Following this introduction, attendees participated in a digital voting activity with four questions about commuting, home location, office location, and frequency of riding local bus. Participants were also able to submit questions about the project that would be answered later in the meeting.

#### **Feedback Received: Community Transit Need Activity**

Next, participants took part in a Community Transit Need Activity. During this activity, attendees identified areas along the corridor that are not sufficiently served by local bus service and places where

it is unsafe to walk or bike. The places that were identified as underserved by local bus service included the Burnt Mills Shopping Center Oak, New Hampshire Avenue and Lockwood Drive, New Hampshire Avenue and Randolph Road, Old Columbia Pike south of Randolph Road, and Tech Road on the east side of US 29. The places identified as unsafe to walk were located at various points on US 29, including Four Corners, Burnt Mills Shopping Center, Northwest Drive, Stewart Lane, Industrial Parkway, Tech Road, and Fairland Road. In addition to the locations on US 29, the participants indicated that Lockwood Drive and New Hampshire Avenue, Old Columbia Pike and Musgrove Road, and New Hampshire Avenue and Randolph Road were places that are unsafe to walk. Participants also indicated that they feel unsafe biking along US 29 at Indian Spring Drive, University Boulevard, Randolph Road, and Briggs Chaney Road.

**Figure 1:** Feedback Received from the Community Transit Need Activity shows the feedback received during the Community Transit Need Activity. After this activity there was a discussion of each feedback point provided on the map where residents could specifically explain some of their responses during the activity. Many of these comments were about Metrobus service in the Briggs Chaney and Greencastle areas. There were also comments about Ride On and Metrobus service in White Oak and Silver Spring. A list of these comments is included in **Table 1:** List of Feedback Received from the Community Transit Need Activity.

*Table 1: List of Feedback Received from the Community Transit Need Activity*

Feedback	Location	Bus Routes
The Z11 bus route spends too much time serving the Greencastle and Briggs Chaney neighborhoods instead of remaining on US 29. This increases trip time by 20 minutes and reduces the effectiveness of the express service.	Burtonsville, Greencastle, Briggs Chaney	Metrobus Z11
There is no bus that serves the area north of Briggs Chaney Road after 11 PM on weeknights or at any time on the weekends. This is a problem because the Greencastle Safeway has closed forcing residents to walk long distances carrying groceries.	Briggs Chaney	
Northbound Z8 service does not serve the Greencastle area late at night. This is a problem as there is criminal activity in this area, making it unsafe to walk.	Greencastle	Metrobus Z8
The traffic light at Greencastle Road and US 29 causes significant traffic delays on northbound US 29.	Greencastle	
Ride On Route 22 only serves the White Oak FDA campus at certain times, causing issues for employees who arrive late or leave early.	White Oak	Ride On 22
During the early morning, the Z11 service often arrives in Silver Spring at the same time as the Metrorail, causing passengers to miss the transfer to rail and add considerable time to their commutes.	Silver Spring	Metrobus Z11

Figure 1: Feedback Received from the Community Transit Need Activity

